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THE

SEVENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOSTON DISPENSARY.

WITH

BY-LAWS, ACT OF INCORPORATION, &c.

CENTRAL OFFICE:

CORNER OF ASH AND BENNET STREETS.

BOSTON:
ROCKWELL & ROLLINS, PRINTERS,
122 WASHINGTON STREET.
1868.

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BOSTON DISPENSARY.

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"Medicine and every other relief, under the calamity of bodily disease, no less than the daily necessaries of life, are natural provisions which God has made for our present indigent state, and which he has granted in common to the children of men, whether they be rich or poor; to the rich, by inheritance or acquisition, and by their hands to the disabled poor. Nor can there be any doubt that PUBLIC DISPENSARIES are the most effectual means of administering such relief."

BISHOP BUTLER.

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OFFICERS

OF

THE BOSTON DISPENSARY,

1868.

Managers.

	CHOSEN IN
URIEL CROCKER,	1838.
J. H. WOLCOTT,	1845.
GEORGE H. KUHN, *President*,	1848.
HENRY B. ROGERS,	1854.
WILLIAM R. LAWRENCE,	1855.
ABBOTT LAWRENCE,	1856.
THOMAS WIGGLESWORTH,	1862.
SAMUEL JOHNSON, JR.,	1863.
RUFUS ELLIS,	1864.
JOHN TISDALE BRADLEE,	1865.
G. LANGDON PRATT,	1865.
ARTHUR LINCOLN, *Secretary*,	1868.

Treasurer.

FRANCIS E. PARKER,	1863.

Executive Committee.

WILLIAM R. LAWRENCE. | THOMAS WIGGLESWORTH.
J. T. BRADLEE.

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REPORT.

The Executive Committee of the Boston Dispensary beg leave to present their Report of the affairs of the institution, for the year ending Sept. 30, 1868: —

The number of new patients at the Central Office has been 16,033, of which 10,969 have been medical cases, and 5,064 surgical, classified as follows: —

MEDICAL.

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
1st quarter,	503	810	696	2009
2d "	681	895	776	2352
3d "	664	1129	1011	2804
4th "	770	1627	1407	3804
Total,	2618	4461	3890	10,969

SURGICAL.

1st quarter,	343	315	399	1057
2d "	441	413	550	1404
3d "	414	435	545	1394
4th "	347	396	466	1209
Total,	1545	1559	1960	5064

The number of new patients in the districts has been as follows: —

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
1st quarter,	384	910	1171	2465
2d "	422	1036	1106	2564
3d "	378	931	1149	2458
4th "	350	856	1286	2492
Total,	1534	3733	4712	9979

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Discharged, cured or relieved,	9361	
Sent to hospitals or removed from districts,	313	
Died,	314	
Remaining under treatment,	78	
	10,066	
Patients remaining at last annual report,	87	
	9,979	
Total number of cases at Central Office,		16,033
Total number at Central Office and in districts,		26,012

PATIENTS, NEW AND OLD, AT CENTRAL OFFICE.

	Medical.	Surgical.	Total.
1st quarter,	4674	2296	6970
2d "	5789	2379	8168
3d "	6608	1791	8399
4th "	6800	1466	8266
Total.	23,871	7932	31,803

Number of cases of midwifery,	140
Number of recipes during the year,	58,011
Number of recipes since July, 1856,	495,530
Number of patients since July, 1856,	233,830
Average daily attendance during the year,	102

SURGEONS.

Francis H. Brown, M. D.
Seth L. Sprague, M. D.
Calvin G. Page, M. D.
John Homans, M. D.

Ophthalmic Surgeon — Oliver F. Wadsworth, M. D.

PHYSICIANS.

Hall Curtis, M. D.
J. McLean Hayward, M. D.
P. A. O'Connell, M. D.
Francis C. Ropes, M. D.
J. B. Treadwell, M. D.
Charles B. Porter, M. D.
S. W. Langmaid, M. D.
Frederic I. Knight, M. D.
F. B. Greenough, M. D.
William F. Munroe, M. D.
Charles E. Inches, M. D.
Samuel G. Webber, M. D.

DISTRICT PHYSICIANS.

No. 1. — Henry Tuck, M. D.
" 2. — John B. Fulton, M. D.
" 3. — David H. Hayden, M. D.
" 4. — Alfred L. Haskins, M. D.
No. 5. — Robert Disbrow, M. D.
" 6. — J. Franklin Appell, M.D.
" 7. — David F. Lincoln, M. D.
" 8. — Hugh Doherty, M. D.

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Apothecary — A. K. Carruthers.
Assistant Apothecary — Walter E. Moore.
Second Assistant Apothecary — John B. Holdsworth.

SAMUEL A. GREEN, M. D., *Superintendent.*

The total income for the year, including interest received on legacies, was about	$8500
Expenses for do., about	8200
To this must be added the bills for repairs not completed at the date of the annual meeting, yet unpaid, about	1200
Leaving a deficit of	900

The Executive Committee do not know that they can better present the claims of the institution which they represent than by quoting the language of the Twenty-First Annual Report, dated, a little more than half a century since, on October 9, 1817.

"The managers of the Dispensary take this opportunity to express their thanks to the contributors to this charity; at the same time they feel solicitous to bring this excellent institution more fully before the public, and, if possible, excite a more general interest in its favor."

Among the numerous charities for which the citizens of Boston are distinguished, perhaps there is none more active, and which exerts a more constant and salutary influence in alleviating the distresses of the poor of every description. Nor is there in this, as in some others, danger of imposition. No one, it is presumed, will ask for medicine unless he is sick.

If gentlemen of the faculty are willing to bestow their services *gratis*, the Managers have full confidence that a generous public will cheerfully furnish them with the means of supplying the poor with medicine.

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It must be a pleasure to a benevolent, sympathizing heart to do good in any way; but to send relief to the sick, and comfort and health into the abodes of wretchedness and poverty, must be a luxury of no ordinary kind. Besides this high gratification, may we not hope that, in some instances at least, it will be said by our final Judge, "I was sick, and ye visited me;" "Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me"?

From the list of two hundred and sixty-two contributors named in the report quoted from, we are not aware that more than five are now living.

The thanks of the Managers are due to the executors of Pascal P. Pope, Esq., for a munificent legacy of $20,000, as well as to those of Miss Abigail Loring for a legacy of $5,000. These additions to the funds were most timely, thereby enabling us to meet the increasing demands upon our resources.

From prudential reasons, no action has as yet been taken towards extending the operations of the Dispensary to the recently annexed territory of Roxbury. It is hoped that the financial position of the Institution will, before long, be such that this, as well as all other territory hereafter annexed to the city of Boston, may be embraced within its sphere of action. To do this effectually would involve the establishment of branch offices in the outlying districts, where both medical advice and medicines could be daily administered. Such an arrangement would require a larger expenditure than would be justified with present resources.

We would recommend that special efforts be made by

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residents of Boston Highlands, and South and East Boston, to raise among themselves such sums as would secure to their poorer classes the full benefits of the Dispensary.

Under the active supervision of our Medical Superintendent, the affairs of the Dispensary have been well and efficiently administered during the past year; and the Managers, as well as the general public, are placed under great obligations to the gentlemen serving on the medical and surgical staff for their disinterested services in behalf of our beneficiaries.

The apothecary's department is in excellent working condition, having been enlarged so as to admit the preparation on the premises of most of the drugs administered.

To improve the drainage and renew the floors and timbers of the lower story, it has been found necessary to make important repairs at the central office, involving a large expenditure. This item of expense was not included in the Annual Report of the Treasurer, as the bills had not been rendered at the time that document was submitted.

Only such repairs as seemed necessary have been undertaken, as it is hoped that, before a very long time, the means will be furnished to erect a building for the central office more commodious, and better adapted in every way to the increasing importance and wants of the Institution. The passages leading to the various apartments are often encumbered with patients; and even the reception-rooms of the medical officers are at times so filled as to interfere essentially with the privacy required for the proper examination of the sick.

Application has recently been made by the Dental School of Harvard University for the use of a room in the

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central office, where pupils could be admitted to witness the ordinary operations of dentistry. Such a department would not only benefit the student, but would be a boon to the patients who daily apply for relief; and yet, for want of space, the Managers are unable to embrace systematically this important branch of minor surgery in their daily service.

The income from annual subscriptions has fallen short of that received for the year 1867. With an increase of funds, much might be done for the relief and benefit of our beneficiaries which cannot now be undertaken.

With this brief statement of our position and wants, we commend the interests of the Dispensary to the attention of a benevolent public.

By the Executive Committee.

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ACT OF INCORPORATION.

An Act to incorporate Samuel Parker and others into a Society, by the Name of the BOSTON DISPENSARY.

WHEREAS certain persons did, in the year 1796, associate and establish a charitable Institution in the town of Boston, for the purpose of affording medical advice and relief to the sick poor of said town, under the name of the Boston Dispensary; and whereas said Institution has been of general and essential service to such persons as are not of ability to procure medical advice and aid for themselves, and the Managers of said Dispensary have represented to this Court the difficulties under which they labor for want of an incorporation, and have petitioned for an Act remedial of those difficulties; and inasmuch as the intentions of said persons appear to be deserving of encouragement: —

SECT. 1. — Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the Rev. Samuel Parker, Samuel Stillman, and Samuel West, Doctors in Divinity; William Tudor, John Andrews, Thomas Davis, Stephen Gorham, and Samuel Dunn, Esquires; Jonathan Amory, jun., Thomas Brewer, and Benjamin Bussey, Merchants; and Nathaniel Smith, Physician (all of said Boston), — the Managers of said charitable Institution, — together with their associates, be, and they hereby are, incorporated and made a body politic for the purposes aforesaid, by the name of the Boston Dispensary; and that they, their associates, and successors, have perpetual succession by the said name, and have power to make By-laws for the preservation and advancement of said Institution, not repugnant to the laws of this Commonwealth.

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Sect. 2. — Be it further enacted, That the said Boston Dispensary be, and it is hereby, authorized and empowered to make, appoint, and have a common seal; and is hereby made liable to be sued, and enabled to sue and defend, in its corporate capacity, in any of the Courts of Record of this Commonwealth; and is hereby licensed and empowered to make purchases, and to receive grants and donations, of real and personal estates, and to hold the same, for the charitable purposes aforesaid; provided the rents and profits of the real estate, together with the interest of the personal estate, shall not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars; and to manage and dispose of such estates as to the said corporation shall appear fit.

Sect. 3. — Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the contributors to said Institution shall meet at Boston on the second Thursday in October annually, for the purpose of electing by ballot twelve Managers and a Treasurer; public notice of the time and place of holding such meeting being given once at least in two of the newspapers published in said town, seven days before the day of meeting; and votes may at all elections be given either in person or by proxy.

Sect. 4. — Be it further enacted, That the business of said Managers shall be to appoint the Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecary of said Dispensary; to provide medicines for the patients recommended by the contributors; and to regulate all affairs relative to the Institution; any three of whom shall constitute a quorum. And all instruments which the said Managers shall lawfully make and execute shall, when signed by their Chairman, Treasurer, or Secretary, and sealed with their common seal, bind the said corporation, and be valid in law.

Sect. 5. — And be it further enacted, That the Rev. Samuel Parker be, and hereby is, authorized, by public notice in two of the Boston newspapers, to call the first meeting of said contributors, at such time and place as he shall judge proper; at which meeting the said corporation shall have all the power vested in them at their stated annual meetings in October; but the officers then chosen shall not continue in office longer than the next meeting in October, unless elected anew.

[Approved by the Governor, Feb. 26, 1801.]

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ADDITIONAL ACT, 1852.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

In the Year 1852, *an Act concerning the Boston Dispensary.*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: —

SECT. 1. — That the Boston Dispensary be, and hereby is, authorized and allowed to make purchases, and receive grants and donations, of real and personal estates, and to apply the proceeds thereof in such manner as in the judgment of the Managers of said Dispensary shall appear best calculated to promote the comfort of suffering applicants for food, fuel, clothing, medical assistance, or any other kind of relief; provided that the annual income of the said real and personal estate shall not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars, in addition to income of the property which said Dispensary was authorized to hold by their Act of Incorporation.

House of Representatives, Jan. 29, 1852.
Passed to be enacted. N. P. BANKS, *Speaker.*

In Senate, Jan. 30, 1852.
Passed to be enacted. HENRY WILSON, *President.*

Jan. 30, 1852.
Approved. GEORGE S. BOUTWELL.

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ADDITIONAL ACT, 1859.

An Act in addition to the Acts relating to the Boston Dispensary.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: —

SECT. 1. — In addition to the existing members of the corporation of the Boston Dispensary, the present and future Managers, Treasurers, and Secretaries shall be and become members, with all the rights of corporators.

SECT. 2. — Said corporation may take and hold real and personal estate to an amount in value not exceeding double that authorized by the Acts passed Feb. 26, in the year 1801, and Jan. 30, in the year 1852.

House of Representatives, Feb. 11, 1859.
Passed to be enacted. CHARLES HALE, *Speaker.*

In Senate, Feb. 12, 1859.
Passed to be enacted. CHARLES A. PHELPS, *President.*

Feb. 15, 1859.
Approved, NATHL. P. BANKS.

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BY-LAWS OF THE BOSTON DISPENSARY.

Chapter I. — *Managers.*

Art. 1. — A Board, consisting of twelve Managers and a Treasurer, shall be annually elected, on the second Thursday of October, by a majority of the contributors present at the meeting; and votes may at all elections be given either in person or by proxy.

Art. 2. — The Board shall meet quarterly, on the second Thursday of January, April, July, and October. Special meetings may be held at any time, on the requisition of the Chairman or of any two Managers.

Art. 3. — Three Managers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Board of Managers shall have power to fill vacancies occurring in their own body during the year.

Art. 4. — Their duty shall be to provide medical attendance and medicines for the sick poor, and to manage and regulate all affairs of the Institution.

Art. 5. — At the first meeting of the Managers after the annual election they shall elect one of their number as chairman, and another as Secretary, of the Board. They shall also appoint an Executive Committee and a Visiting Committee for the year.

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Art. 6. — The Executive Committee shall consist of three Managers, who shall have the general charge of the affairs of the Institution during the interval between the regular quarterly meetings of the Board, and shall act in their behalf. They shall also nominate officers for the succeeding year, and shall fill such vacancies as may occur in the various departments of the Dispensary, subject to the approval of the Managers at their next meeting.

Art. 7. — The Visiting Committee shall consist of two Managers, whose term of office shall be one month; and it shall be the duty of this Committee to visit the office of the Dispensary at least once a week. The Visiting Committee shall keep a minute-book, in which they shall enter the time of each visit, with such remarks as they may think proper; which book shall be produced at every quarterly meeting of the Board.

Art. 8. — It shall be the duty of the Managers, individually, to visit the office of the Dispensary at least once during each quarter; and the time of each visit, with such remarks as may be thought proper, shall be entered on the book of the Visiting Committee.

Whenever so inclined, the Managers may visit the indoor patients of the Dispensary, with or without the Physician.

Art. 9. — The Managers shall annually appoint a Superintendent, and the necessary physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, to the Dispensary; and those officers shall be removable at any time for what is deemed sufficient cause by the Managers.

Art. 10. — The Managers shall have the right to admit patients to the benefits of this Institution, to such extent

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as shall from time to time be determined by vote of the Board.

ART. 11. — The Chairman and Secretary shall constitute a Standing Committee, with power to publish such portions of the reports of the physicians as they may judge expedient.

CHAPTER II. — *Treasurer and Secretary.*

ART. 1. — The Treasurer shall receive and have the custody of all moneys, bonds, notes, deeds, and other securities belonging to the corporation, which he shall keep and manage, under the direction and control of the Board of Managers, or their Committee appointed for the purpose. He shall pay no moneys but by order of the Board of Managers or of the Executive Committee, except for the regular salaries of the officers. He shall make up his accounts to the last day of September in each year, and shall exhibit the same to the corporation at their annual meeting.

ART. 2. — The Secretary shall duly notify all meetings of the corporation and of the Managers, and shall keep a distinct record of each.

ART. 3. — The Treasurer and Secretary shall have the privileges of contributors, without the payment of assessments; and shall receive such pecuniary compensation for their services as the Managers may from time to time deem expedient.

CHAPTER III. — *Districts.*

ART. 1. — The portion of the city pertaining to the Boston Dispensary shall be divided by the Managers into

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such districts as from time to time the changes of population or other causes shall render necessary or expedient.

District No. 1 includes all of Ward Two, and that portion of Ward Four lying north of, and including *both sides* of, Canal Street, Haymarket Square, Blackstone and Clinton Streets, continued to the water.

District No. 2 includes all of Ward One (East Boston).

District No. 3 includes that portion of Ward Four lying west of Canal Street, Haymarket Square, Blackstone, Hanover, Court, Tremont, and Beacon Streets, and Wards Three and Six.

District No. 4 includes those portions of Wards Four, Five, and Eight lying west of, and including *both sides* of, Union Street, Dock Square, Exchange, and Congress Streets, continued to the water; north of *both sides* of Kneeland and Eliot Streets; and east of *and including both sides* of Tremont, Court, and Hanover Streets.

District No. 5 includes those portions of Wards Four and Five lying *south of both sides* of Blackstone and Clinton Streets; and *east of both sides* of Hanover and Union Streets, Dock Square, Exchange, and Congress Streets, continued to the water.

District No. 6 includes those portions of Wards Seven, Eight, and Nine lying south of, *and including both sides* of, Kneeland and Eliot Streets, and *north* of the Worcester Railway, extending to the water.

District No. 7 includes those portions of Wards Seven and Nine lying south of the Worcester Railway; and Wards Ten and Eleven.

District No. 8 includes Ward Twelve (South Boston).

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Chapter IV. — *Superintendent.*

Art. 1. — The Superintendent shall be charged with the supervision of the Dispensary, in all its departments. He shall, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, prescribe the duties of the various officers of the Dispensary, when such duties are not specifically stated in the By-laws.

Art. 2. — He shall see that the offices and rooms are kept in good order; that the books are carefully and regularly kept; and shall keep an inventory of all the surgical instruments which may be intrusted to his care, and shall be accountable for them. He shall, with the consent of the Executive Committee, incur such current expenses as the good of the Institution shall require; and shall report to the Managers, at their next stated meeting, the amount and objects of the outlay.

Art. 3. — He shall facilitate as much as possible the business of the physicians in the various departments; shall attend daily at the office; and, in the absence of any attending physician, shall prescribe for patients until a substitute be provided.

Art. 4. — He shall present to the Managers a quarterly report touching the general condition of the Dispensary; and shall prepare and present to the Board, at their meeting in October, an annual report, which shall be a summary of the quarterly reports. He shall state the number of patients treated during the year, the number affected by each disease, with any facts of general interest relating to the Dispensary,

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Chapter V. — *Attending and District Physicians.*

Art. 1. — It shall be the duty of the attending physicians to attend daily at the office of the Dispensary, except on Sundays and legal holidays; and to prescribe for all patients during their respective hours.

Art. 2. — A general register shall be kept at the office of the Dispensary, in which it shall be the duty of the physicians to enter, in separate columns ruled for the purpose, the name, age, residence, place of birth, condition, disease, result, and attending physician, of each patient.

Art. 3. — When any important operation is to be performed upon a patient of the Dispensary, one or more of the consulting or attending surgeons shall be called in consultation; and no operation shall be performed on any such patient, unless by a physician or surgeon of the Institution.

Art. 4. — Each of the eight districts shall be placed under the charge of one of the district physicians; and patients unable to attend at the office of the Dispensary shall be regularly visited at their respective places of abode, as often as their cases shall require, by the physician in whose district they reside.

Art. 5. — A register for district patients, similar to that of out-door patients, shall be kept by the district physicians; and a monthly report thereof shall be made to the Superintendent.

Art. 6. — No physician holding office in the Dispensary shall resign the same, without giving at least one month's notice to the Managers.

Art. 7. — Each physician must reside within the district

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he has in charge, unless with permission from the Executive Committee to the contrary; and shall promptly notify the Superintendent in case of a change of residence.

Art. 8. — The district physicians shall have the privilege of visiting the office of the Dispensary at all times; and (excepting the physicians of Districts Two and Eight) shall, in rotation, at the request of the Superintendent, attend and perform service, whenever such service is required by the number of patients, or by the absence of an attending physician.

Art. 9. — It shall be the duty of physicians to give particularly plain directions for using such medicines as they may prescribe. As far as practicable, they are requested to use the formulæ contained in the list of prescriptions which has been prepared for the use of the Dispensary.

Art. 10. — Should indisposition or other cause prevent a physician from attending to his duties, he shall immediately report the same to the Superintendent, who shall appoint temporarily some physician to take charge of the vacant district, and report the same to the Executive Committee.

Art. 11. — In case of emergency, where the physician in whose district such case may occur cannot be found, it shall be the duty of any physician of this Institution, who may be first met with, to attend to the patient for whom succor is sought.

Art. 12. — The salaries of the Superintendent, district physicians, and apothecaries shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Managers.

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The By-laws may be altered or amended at any legal meeting of the Board of Managers, provided that, in the notices calling such meeting, it shall have been stated that an alteration or amendment is to be proposed; and not otherwise.

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REGULATIONS OF THE DISPENSARY.

ART. 1. — The office of the Dispensary shall be kept open daily, during such hours as may from time to time be designated by the Executive Committee, except on Sundays and legal holidays.

ART. 2. — No persons but such as are necessitous shall be deemed objects of this charity. All such shall be attended to by the physicians of the Dispensary, who shall in no case receive compensation from Dispensary patients for services rendered.

ART. 3. — Medical students shall have the privilege of attending at the office of the Dispensary, after having first obtained written permission from the Executive Committee, but shall in no case be permitted to prescribe for or operate on any patient. The privilege thus granted shall be for the space of one year; and may be interdicted at any time, for sufficient cause, by the Executive Committee.

ART. 4. — No smoking of tobacco shall be allowed in any of the rooms belonging to the Dispensary.

Medical and surgical advice and medicine given at the central office, corner of Ash and Bennet Streets, daily from 9 to 11 A. M.

Medicines dispensed from 9 A. M. to 12 M., and 4 to 7 P. M.; Sundays, 1 to 2 P. M.; legal holidays, 9 to 10 A. M.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS

TO

THE BOSTON DISPENSARY,

FOR 1868.

Andrews, W. T.,	$5 00
Amory, J. S.,	5 00
Appleton, William,	5 00
Brewer, G.,	5 00
Barnard, J. M.,	5 00
Barnard, G. M.,	5 00
Bacon, F.,	5 00
Bradford, M. L.,	5 00
Beebe, J. M.,	5 00
Bullard, W. S.,	5 00
Ballard, John,	5 00
Bartol, Rev. C. A.,	5 00
Chandler, J.,	5 00
Clark, C. W.,	5 00
Chadwick, C. C.,	5 00
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Foster & Taylor,	5 00
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Foster, Miss E. A.,	5 00
Grew, Mrs. Henry,	10 00
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Greene, Mrs. B. D.,	5 00
Glidden & Williams,	5 00
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Harris, N.,	5 00
Howe, George,	5 00
Hunnewell, H. H.,	5 00
Hall, A. T.,	5 00
Inches, H. B.,	5 00
Kuhn, G. H.,	5 00
Kidder, J. G.,	5 00
Lawrence, Abbott,	5 00
Lawrence, James,	5 00

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